

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (canceled)

2. (new) A system for determining an operating mode of a recording/playing device comprising:

a first monitor configured to detect a first signal associated with a tuner configured to tune to a program signal;

a second monitor configured to detect a second signal associated with a recording/playing device configured to at least one of record and play a program;

a third monitor configured to detect a third signal associated with a receiver coupled to the recording/playing device;

a fourth monitor configured to detect a recording signal generated by the recording/playing device during recording of the program to form a recorded program; and

a mode identifier coupled to the first, second, third, and fourth monitors and configured to identify an operating mode of the recording/playing device based on one or more of the first, second, third, and recording signals.

3. (new) A system as defined in claim 2, wherein the mode identifier is configured to identify a record mode associated with the recording/playing device in response to detecting that the first signal matches the second signal, and the fourth monitor detecting the recording signal.

4. (new) A system as defined in claim 2, wherein the mode identifier is configured to identify that the recorded program is received by the receiver in response to detecting that the second signal matches the third signal.

5. (new) A system as defined in claim 2, wherein the mode identifier is configured to identify that the recorded program is not received by the receiver in response to detecting that the second signal does not match the third signal.

6. (new) A system as defined in claim 2, wherein the mode identifier is configured to identify at least one of a play mode, a tune mode, a fast forward mode, a rewind mode, an off mode, and a receiver operating mode associated with the recording/playing device in response to the fourth monitor failing to detect the recording signal.

7. (new) A system as defined in claim 6, wherein the mode identifier is configured to identify the play mode in response to detecting that the first signal does not match the second signal, and the second signal matches the third signal.

8. (new) A system as defined in claim 6, wherein the mode identifier is configured to identify at least one of the tune mode, the fast forward mode, and the rewind mode in response to detecting that the first signal matches the second signal, and that the second signal matches the third signal.

9. (new) A system as defined in claim 8, wherein the tune mode comprises a mode associated with the recording/playing device tuning the receiver.

10. (new) A system as defined in claim 6, wherein the mode identifier is configured to identify at least one of the off mode and the receiver operating mode in response to detecting that the first signal does not match the second signal, and the second signal does not match the third signal.

11. (new) A system as defined in claim 2, wherein at least one of the first, second, and third signals comprises at least one of a video signature and an audio signature.

12. (new) A system as defined in claim 2, wherein the mode identifier comprises an extractor configured to extract signatures associated with the first, second, and third signals.

13. (new) A system as defined in claim 12, wherein the mode identifier comprises a correlator configured to correlate the signatures.

14. (new) A system as defined in claim 2, wherein at least one of the second, third, and fourth monitors comprises a non-invasive sensor.

15. (new) A system as defined in claim 14, wherein the non-invasive sensor comprises at least one of a microphone, a photodetector, and an inductive pickup.

16. (new) A system as defined in claim 2, wherein the first monitor is integrated with at least one of the second, third, and fourth monitors.

17. (new) A system as defined in claim 2, wherein the recording signal comprises an erase head signal.

18. (new) A system as defined in claim 2, wherein the recording/playing device comprises at least one of a video cassette recorder/player, a compact disc recorder/player, a digital video disc recorder/player, and an audio cassette recorder/player.

19. (new) A system as defined in claim 2, wherein the receiver comprises at least one of a television receiver and a radio receiver.

20. (new) A method for determining an operating mode of a recording/playing device comprising:

monitoring for a first signal associated with a tuner configured to tune to a program signal;

monitoring for a second signal associated with a recording/playing device configured to at least one of record and play a program;

monitoring for a third signal associated with a receiver coupled to the recording/playing device;

monitoring for a recording signal generated by the recording/playing device during recording of the program to form a recorded program; and

identifying an operating mode of the recording/playing device based on one or more of the first, second, third, and recording signals.

21. (new) A method as defined in claim 20, wherein identifying the operating mode of the recording/playing device comprises identifying a record mode associated with the recording/playing device in response to detecting that the first signal matches the second signal, and detecting the recording signal.

22. (new) A method as defined in claim 21, wherein identifying the record mode associated with the recording/playing device comprises identifying that the recorded program is received by the receiver in response to detecting that the second signal matches the third signal.

23. (new) A method as defined in claim 21, wherein identifying the record mode associated with the recording/playing device comprises identifying that the recorded program is not received by the receiver in response to detecting that the second signal does not match the third signal.

24. (new) A method as defined in claim 20, wherein identifying the operating mode of the recording/playing device comprises identifying at least one of a play mode, a tune mode, a fast forward mode, a rewind mode, an off mode, and a receiver operating mode associated with the recording/playing device in response to a failure to detect the recording signal.

25. (new) A method as defined in claim 24, wherein identifying the at least one of the play mode, the tune mode, the fast forward mode, the rewind mode, the off mode, and the receiver operating mode comprises identifying the play mode in response to detecting that the first signal does not match the second signal, and that the second signal matches the third signal.

26. (new) A method as defined in claim 24, wherein identifying the at least one of the play mode, the tune mode, the fast forward mode, the rewind mode, the off mode, and the receiver operating mode comprises identifying at least one of the tune mode, the fast forward mode, and the rewind mode in response to detecting that the first signal matches the second signal, and that the second signal matches the third signal.

27. (new) A method as defined in claim 24, wherein the tune mode comprises a mode associated with the recording/playing device tuning the receiver.

28. (new) A method as defined in claim 24, wherein identifying the at least one of the play mode, the tune mode, the fast forward mode, the rewind mode, the off mode, and the receiver operating mode comprises identifying at least one of the off mode and the receiver operating mode in response to detecting that the first signal does not match the second signal, and that the second signal does not match the third signal.

29. (new) A method as defined in claim 20, wherein identifying the operating mode of the recording/playing device comprises:

extracting signatures associated with the first, second, and third signals; and

correlating the signatures.

30. (new) A method as defined in claim 20, wherein at least one of the first, second, and third signals, and the recording signal comprises at least one of a video signature, an audio signature, and a non-invasive signal.

31. (new) A method as defined in claim 20, wherein the recording signal comprises an erase head signal.

32. (new) A method as defined in claim 20, wherein the recording/playing device comprises at least one of a video cassette recorder/player, a compact disc recorder/player, a digital video disc recorder/player, and an audio cassette recorder/player.

33. (new) A method as defined in claim 20, wherein the receiver comprises at least one of a television receiver and a radio receiver.

34. (new) A machine accessible medium having instructions stored thereon that when executed, cause a machine to:

monitor for a first signal associated a tuner configured to tune to a program signal;

monitor for a second signal associated with a recording/playing device configured to at least one of record and play a program;

monitor for a third signal associated with a receiver coupled to the recording/playing device;

monitor for a recording signal generated by the recording/playing device during recording of the program to form a recorded program; and

identify an operating mode of the recording/playing device based on one or more of the first, second, third, and recording signals.

35. (new) A machine accessible medium as defined in claim 34, wherein the instructions, when executed, cause the machine to identify the operating mode of the recording/playing device by identifying a record mode associated with the recording/playing device in response to detecting that the first signal matches the second signal, and detecting the recording signal.

36. (new) A machine accessible medium as defined in claim 35, wherein the instructions, when executed, cause the machine to identify the record mode associated with the recording/playing device by identifying that the recorded program is received by the receiver in response to detecting that the second signal matches the third signal.

37. (new) A machine accessible medium as defined in claim 35, wherein the instructions, when executed, cause the machine to identify the record mode associated with the recording/playing device by identifying that the recorded program is not received the receiver in response to detecting that the second signal does not match the third signal.

38. (new) A machine accessible medium as defined in claim 34, wherein the instructions, when executed, cause the machine to identify the operating mode of the recording/playing device by identifying at least one of a play mode, a tune mode, a fast forward mode, a rewind mode, an off mode, and a receiver operating mode associated with the recording/playing device in response to a failure to detect the recording signal.

39. (new) A machine accessible medium as defined in claim 38, wherein the instructions, when executed, cause the machine to identify the at least one of the play mode, the tune mode, the fast forward mode, the rewind mode, the off mode, and the receiver operating mode by identifying the play mode in response to detecting that the first signal does not match the second signal, and that the second signal matches the third signal.

40. (new) A machine accessible medium as defined in claim 38, wherein the instructions, when executed, cause the machine to identify the at least one of the play mode, the tune mode, the fast forward mode, the rewind mode, the off mode, and the receiver operating mode by identifying at least one of the tune mode, the fast forward mode, and the rewind mode in response to detecting that the first signal matches the second signal, and that the second signal matches the third signal.

41. (new) A machine accessible medium as defined in claim 38, wherein the tune mode comprises a mode associated with the recording/playing device tuning the receiver.

42. (new) A machine accessible medium as defined in claim 38, wherein the instructions, when executed, cause the machine to identify the at least one of the play mode, the tune mode, the fast forward mode, the rewind mode, the off mode, and the receiver operating mode by identifying at least one of the off mode and the receiver operating mode in response to detecting that the first signal does not match the second signal, and that the second signal does not match the third signal.

43. (new) A machine accessible medium as defined in claim 34, wherein the instructions, when executed, cause the machine to identify an operating mode of the recording/playing device by extracting signatures associated with the first, second, and third signals, and correlating the signatures.

44. (new) A machine accessible medium as defined in claim 34, wherein at least one of the first, second, and third signals, and the recording signal comprises at least one of a video signature, an audio signature, and a non-invasive signal.

45. (new) A machine accessible medium as defined in claim 34, wherein the recording signal comprises an erase head signal.

46. (new) A machine accessible medium as defined in claim 34, wherein the recording/playing device comprises at least one of a video cassette recorder/player, a compact disc recorder/player, a digital video disc recorder/player, and an audio cassette recorder/player.

47. (new) A machine accessible medium as defined in claim 34, wherein the receiver comprises at least one of a television receiver and a radio receiver.

48. (new) An apparatus for determining an operating mode of a recording/playing device comprising:

an extractor configured to extract signatures associated with a first signal associated with a tuner configured to tune to a program signal, a second signal associated with a recording/playing device configured to at least one of record and play a program, and a third signal associated with a receiver coupled to the recording/playing device;

a recording detector configured to detect a recording signal generated by the recording/playing device during recording of the program to form a recorded program;

a correlator configured to correlate the first, second, and third signals; and

a processor configured to identify the operating mode of the recording/playing device based on detection of the recording signal and correlation of two or more of the first, second, and third signals.

49. (new) An apparatus as defined in claim 48, wherein the processor is configured to identify a record mode associated with the recording/playing device in response to the recording detector detecting the recording signal and the correlator detecting that the first signal matches the second signal.

50. (new) An apparatus as defined in claim 48, wherein the processor is configured to identify that the recorded program is received by the receiver in response to the correlator detecting that the second signal matches the third signal.

51. (new) An apparatus as defined in claim 48, wherein the processor is configured to identify that the recorded program is not received by the receiver in response to the correlator detecting that the second signal does not match the third signal.

52. (new) An apparatus as defined in claim 48, wherein the processor is configured to identify at least one of a play mode, a tune mode, a fast forward mode, a rewind mode, an off mode, and a receiver operating mode associated with the recording/playing device in response to the recording detector failing to detect the recording signal.

53. (new) An apparatus as defined in claim 52, wherein the processor is configured to identify the play mode in response to the correlator detecting that the first signal does not match the second signal, and that the second signal matches the third signal.

54. (new) An apparatus as defined in claim 52, wherein the processor is configured to identify at least one of the tune mode, the fast forward mode, and the rewind mode in response to the correlator detecting that the first signal matches the second signal, and that the second signal matches the third signal.

55. (new) An apparatus as defined in claim 52, wherein the tune mode comprises a mode associated with the recording/playing device tuning the receiver.

56. (new) An apparatus as defined in claim 52, wherein the processor is configured to identify at least one of the off mode and the receiver operating mode in response to detecting that the first signal does not match the second signal, and that the second signal does not match the third signal.

57. (new) An apparatus as defined in claim 48 further comprising a non-invasive sensor configured to detect at least one of the second and third signals, and the recording signal.

58. (new) An apparatus as defined in claim 57, wherein the non-invasive sensor comprises at least one of a microphone, a photodetector, and an inductive pickup.

59. (new) An apparatus as defined in claim 48, wherein the signatures comprise at least one of a video signature and an audio signature.

60. (new) An apparatus as defined in claim 48, wherein the recording signal comprises an erase head signal.

61. (new) An apparatus as defined in claim 48, wherein the recording/playing device comprises at least one of a video cassette recorder/player, a compact disc recorder/player, a digital video disc recorder/player, and an audio cassette recorder/player.

62. (new) An apparatus as defined in claim 48, wherein the receiver comprises at least one of a television receiver and a radio receiver.

63. (new) A method for determining an operating mode of an audio/video output device comprising:

identifying a first characteristic of a first signal associated with an audio/video delivery device;

identifying a second characteristic of a second signal associated with an audio/video output device local to and communicatively coupled to the audio/video delivery device;

comparing the first and second characteristics of the respective first and second signals; and

determining the operating mode of the audio/video output device based on the comparison of the first and second characteristics.

64. A method as defined in claim 63, wherein the audio/video delivery device comprises one of a video monitor and a television, and wherein the audio/video output device comprises one of a game device and an audio/video recording/playback device.

65. A method as defined in claim 63, wherein each of the first and second characteristics comprises at least one of a synchronization characteristic, a signature, and an ancillary code.

66. A method as defined in claim 63, wherein the operating mode comprises one of a play mode, a record mode, and a tuning mode.

67. A method as defined in claim 63, wherein the first and second signals are associated with previously recorded media.

68. A method as defined in claim 63, wherein the second signal is associated with an erase head signal.

69. An apparatus for determining an operating mode of an audio/video output device comprising:

a first characteristic identifier configured to identify a first characteristic of a first signal associated with an audio/video delivery device;

a second characteristic identifier configured to identify a second characteristic of a second signal associated with an audio/video output device local to and communicatively coupled to the audio/video delivery device;

a correlator configured to compare the first and second characteristics of the respective first and second signals; and

a processor configured to determine the operating mode of the audio/video output device based on the comparison of the first and second characteristics.

70. An apparatus as defined in claim 69, wherein the audio/video delivery device comprises one of a video monitor and a television, and wherein the audio/video output device comprises one of a game device and an audio/video recording/playback device.

71. An apparatus as defined in claim 69, wherein each of the first and second characteristics comprises at least one of a synchronization characteristic, a signature, and an ancillary code.

72. An apparatus as defined in claim 69, wherein the operating mode comprises one of a play mode, a record mode, and a tuning mode.

73. An apparatus as defined in claim 69, wherein the first and second signals are associated with previously recorded media.

74. An apparatus as defined in claim 69, wherein the second signal is associated with an erase head signal.

75. An apparatus as defined in claim 69, wherein the first characteristic identifier is integrated into the second characteristic identifier.

76. A method for monitoring usage of an audio/video output device comprising:
storing at least one of a signature and a code associated with an audio/video delivery during recording of the audio/video delivery to form stored information;
extracting information from the audio/video delivery during playback of the audio/video delivery by the audio/video output device to form extracted information;
comparing the extracted information to the stored information to form a comparison;
and
monitoring the usage of the audio/video output device based on the comparison.

77. A method as defined in claim 76, wherein the audio/video delivery is associated with one of a game and a television program.

78. A method as defined in claim 76, wherein the audio/video output device comprises one of a game device and an audio/video recording/playback device.

79. A method as defined in claim 76, wherein monitoring the usage of the audio/video output device comprises determining an operating mode of the audio/video output device.

80. A method as defined in claim 79, wherein the operating mode comprises one of a play mode, a record mode, and a tuning mode.

81. An apparatus for monitoring usage of an audio/video output device comprising:

a memory configured to store at least one of a signature and a code associated with an audio/video delivery during recording of the audio/video delivery to form stored information;

an extractor configured to extract information from the audio/video delivery during playback of the audio/video delivery by the audio/video output device to form extracted information;

a correlator configured to compare the extracted information to the stored information to form a comparison; and

a processor configured to monitor the usage of the audio/video output device based on the comparison.

82. An apparatus as defined in claim 81, wherein the audio/video delivery is associated with one of a game and a television program.

83. An apparatus as defined in claim 81, wherein the audio/video output device comprises one of a game device and an audio/video recording/playback device.

84. An apparatus as defined in claim 81, wherein the processor is configured to determine an operating mode of the audio/video output device.

85. An apparatus as defined in claim 84, wherein the operating mode comprises one of a play mode, a record mode, and a tuning mode.